

National Registration Of Skilled Workers To Begin Tomorrow

Voluntary Program
Asked by Defense Chiefs
To Locate All Available

Federal Security Administrator McNutt, motivated by what he termed a "growing concern over the adequacy of the available skilled labor supply," today announced a Nation-wide registration of skilled workers would open tomorrow at the request of the Office of Production Management.

Simultaneously, the Social Security Board made public an appeal by Sidney Hillman, associate director general of O. P. M., to all such available workers to register with the United States Employment Service of the board and its affiliated State employment services, which will conduct the registration.

The move is an effort to locate all available workers to prepare for the greatly increased demand for defense workers expected within the next few months, and to meet the growing shortages of skilled labor in certain occupations in the aircraft, shipbuilding and machine shop and machine tool industries, Mr. McNutt said.

1,500,000 Workers May Be Added.

At a press conference yesterday, Chairman Arthur J. Altmeyer of the Social Security Board, estimated that 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 workers will be added to the active files of the employment services through the registration. This, he said, would put the total in the active files between 6,000,000 to 6,500,000 skilled and unskilled workers.

Mr. Altmeyer told reporters shortages are developing in about 30 occupations in such defense industries as shipbuilding, aircraft, machine shops and machinery manufacturing, but declared they are not serious at present. No defense industries are seriously handicapped today by lack of skilled employees, he said.

He indicated that the registration plan has been worked out to avoid any need for a labor priorities system. It is the Government's policy, he said, to avoid any necessity for labor priorities.

Mr. Altmeyer said the board's employment agencies have been making placements at a rate of about 350,000 a month, but he estimated that during the next quarter, placements would jump to between 375,000 and 400,000 a month.

Of the approximately 5,000,000 workers now listed in the active files, about 15 per cent are skilled laborers as compared with 20 per cent a year ago.

Those Asked to Register.

Skilled and experienced workers in the following occupations are asked to register at once, provided they are not using these skills in their present jobs:

In aircraft manufacturing—airplane sheet metal workers, airplane woodworkers, inspectors and aeronautical engineers.

In shipbuilding—ship carpenters, joiners, boatbuilders, shipfitters, caulkers and marine machinists.

In machine shops and machinery manufacturing—machinists, tool makers, lathe operators, die makers and tool designers.

Mr. McNutt explained that workers with vital defense skills will not be asked to leave their present jobs, but are asked only to register their qualifications with the nearest office of the State employment service so that they may be called when and if needed in an important defense industry.

Unemployed Asked to Register.

All unemployed men and women who are able to work also are asked to register so that defense officials may have a complete picture of the country's labor resources in terms of availability for anticipated job openings or for training in defense occupations.

Announcement of the registration program followed closely a message from William S. Knudsen, co-director of the O. P. M., asking all employers with defense contracts to use local State employment offices to recruit needed labor.

In announcing the program, Mr. McNutt pointed out that in addition to the sharp increase in defense labor requirements shortly expected, some 600,000 men would be withdrawn from the labor market for military training by July 1. The United States Employment Service, he said, is preparing to meet these extraordinary demands for labor by securing, in advance, through its registration program, complete information on the number, location and occupations of all workers fully qualified for immediate or future employment.

3 Volumes Donated For Piccadilly Arcade

Three volumes of "Up and Down London Streets," by Mark Lemon, have been donated for sale at the Piccadilly Arcade, to be held here April 3, 4 and 5 for the benefit of the Royal Air Force Fund.

Mrs. George Moffett obtained the books for sale through A. S. N. Rosenbach. The volumes are bound in full light brown morocco gilt backs and tops by R. W. Smith.

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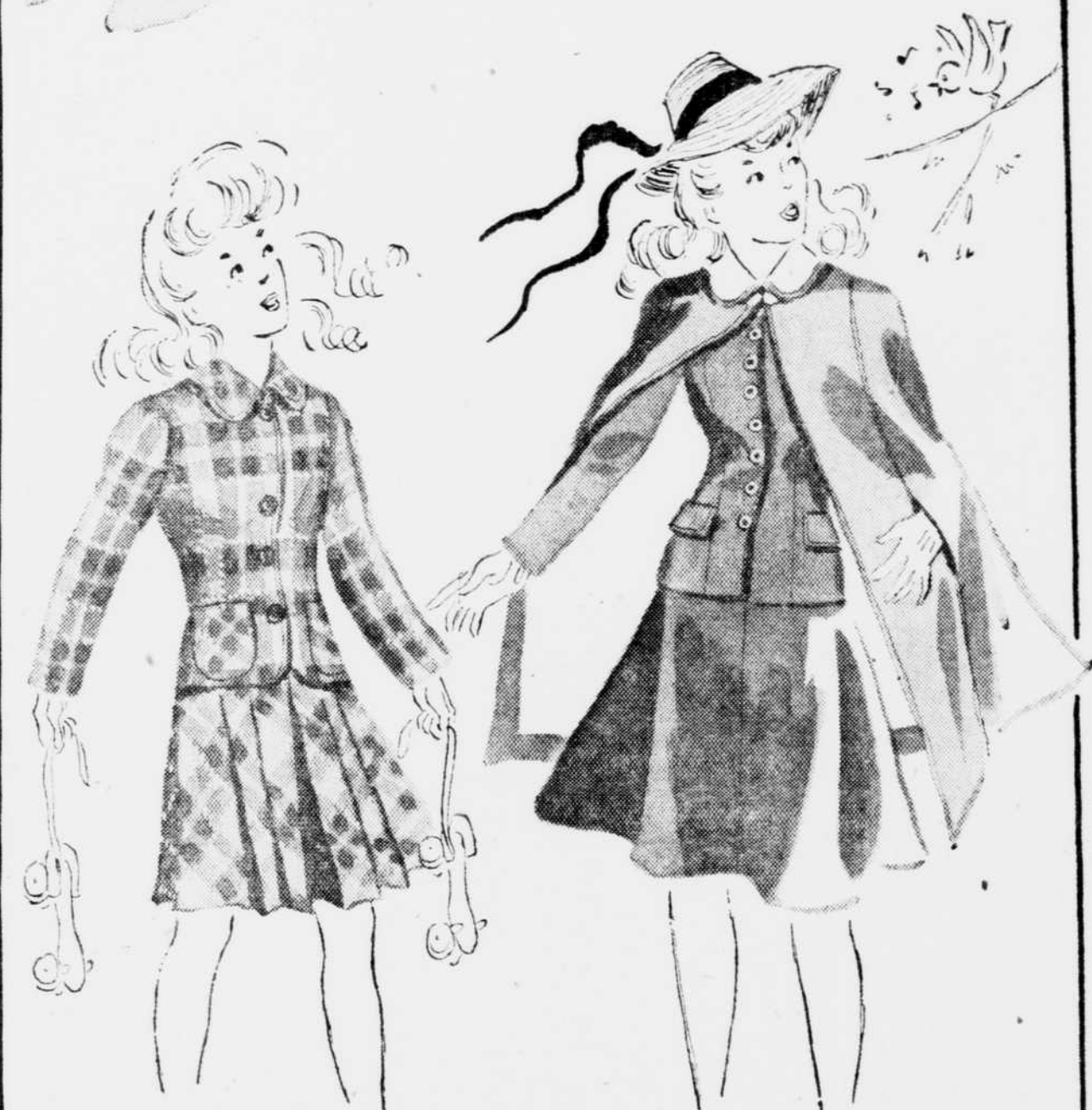


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